GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:623
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
EXPLOSION IN ORDNANCE FACTORY AT KHAMARIA
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a powerful explosion took place recently at Khamaria Ordnance Factory, Jabalpur as reported in the Hindu dated April 17, 2002;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary investigations into the cause of explosion have been conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of loss of lives and properties suffered as a result thereof; and

(e) the steps contemplated by the Government to prevent such explosions in ordnance factories?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir, an explosion took place at Ordnance Factory Khamaria on 16.4.2002.

(b) to (e): As a result of explosion, one person died and three received injuries. One building was partially damaged. A Board of Inquiry has been constituted to investigate into the causes of explosion, assess the damage caused and to suggest remedial measures to prevent such accidents.

Apart from implementing the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry in every case of an accident, the Ordnance Factories have been asked to scrupulously follow the safety regulations and periodically review the safety instructions. It has been decided to observe the month of May as `Special Safety Month` and a 13 point drill has been prescribed to be implemented by all the Ordnance Factories. In addition, various steps are being taken to inculcate safety consciousness among the employees of Ordnance Factories.